



Billing Code: 5001-06

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE; Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS);

Fiscal Year 2016 Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) Updates

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of DRG revised rates.

SUMMARY: This notice describes the changes made to the TRICARE DRG-based payment system in order to conform to changes made to the Medicare Prospective Payment System (PPS). It also provides the updated fixed loss cost outlier threshold, cost-to-charge ratios, and the data necessary to update the FY 2016 rates.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The rates, weights, and Medicare PPS changes which affect the TRICARE DRG-based payment system contained in this notice are effective for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Defense Health Agency, TRICARE, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Section, 16401 East Centretch Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9066.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon L. Seelmeyer, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Section, TRICARE, telephone (303) 676-3690. Questions regarding payment of specific claims under the TRICARE DRG-based payment system should be addressed to the appropriate contractor.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule published on September 1, 1987 (52 FR 32992) set forth the basic procedures used under the CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system. This was subsequently amended by final rules published August 31, 1988 (53 FR

33461); October 21, 1988 (53 FR 41331); December 16, 1988 (53 FR 50515); May 30, 1990 (55 FR 21863); October 22, 1990 (55 FR 42560); and September 10, 1998 (63 FR 48439).

An explicit tenet of these final rules, and one based on the statute authorizing the use of DRGs by TRICARE, is that the TRICARE DRG-based payment system is modeled on the Medicare PPS, and that, whenever practicable, the TRICARE system will follow the same rules that apply to the Medicare PPS. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes these changes annually in the Federal Register and discusses in detail the impact of the changes.

In addition, this notice updates the rates and weights in accordance with our previous final rules. The actual changes we are making, along with a description of their relationship to the Medicare PPS, are detailed in this notice.

I. Medicare PPS Changes Which Affect the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System

Following is a discussion of the changes CMS has made to the Medicare PPS that affect the TRICARE DRG-based payment system.

A. DRG Classifications

Under both the Medicare PPS and the TRICARE DRG-based payment system, cases are classified into the appropriate DRG by a Grouper program. The Grouper classifies each case into a DRG on the basis of the diagnosis and procedure codes and demographic information (that is, sex, age, and discharge status). The Grouper used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system is the same as the current Medicare Grouper with certain modifications. For FY 2008, Medicare implemented their Medicare-Severity DRG (MS-DRG) based payment system. TRICARE, however, continued with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services DRG-based (CMS-DRG) payment system for FY 2008. For FY 2009, the TRICARE/CHAMPUS

DRG-based payment system shall be modeled on the MS-DRG system, with the following modifications.

The MS-DRG system consolidated the 43 pediatric CMS DRGs that were defined based on age less than or equal to 17 into the most clinically similar MS-DRGs. In their Inpatient Prospective Payment System final rule for MS-DRGs, Medicare stated for their population these pediatric CMS DRGs contained a very low volume of Medicare patients. At the same time, Medicare encouraged private insurers and other non-Medicare payers to make refinements to MS-DRGs to better suit the needs of the patients they serve. Consequently, TRICARE finds it appropriate to retain the pediatric CMS-DRGs for our population. TRICARE is also retaining the TRICARE-specific DRGs for neonates and substance use.

For FY09, TRICARE will use the MS-DRG v26.0 pre-MDC hierarchy, with the exception that MDC 15 is applied after DRG 011- 012 and before MDC 24.

For FY10, there are no additional or deleted DRGs.

For FY 11, the added DRGs and deleted DRGs are the same as those included in CMS' final rule published on August 16, 2010. That is, DRG 009 is deleted; DRGs 014 and 015 are being added.

For FY 12, the added DRGs and deleted DRGs are the same as those included in CMS' final rule published on August 18, 2011 (76 FR 51476–51846). That is, DRG 015 is deleted; DRGs 016 and 017 are being added.

For FY 2013 there are no new, revised, or deleted DRGs.

For FY 2014 there are no new, revised, or deleted DRGs.

For FY 2015 the added, deleted, and revised DRGs are the same as those included in the CMS' final rule published on August 22, 2014 (79 FR 49880) with the exception of endovascular

cardiac valve replacement for which CMS added DRGs 266/267 and TRICARE added DRGs 317/318 because the TRICARE Grouper already has DRGs 266/267 assigned to pediatric procedures.

For FY2016 the added, deleted, and revised DRGs are the same as those included in the CMS' final rule published on August 17, 2015 (80 FR 49326) with the exception of cardiovascular procedure for which CMS added DRGs 268-272 and TRICARE added DRGs 275-279 because the TRICARE Grouper already has DRGs 268-271 assigned to pediatric procedures.

B. Wage Index and Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board Guidelines

TRICARE will continue to use the same wage index amounts used for the Medicare PPS. TRICARE will also duplicate all changes with regard to the wage index for specific hospitals that are redesignated by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. In addition, TRICARE will continue to utilize the out-commuting wage index adjustment.

C. Revision of the Labor-Related Share of the Wage Index

TRICARE is adopting CMS' percentage of labor related share of the standardized amount. For wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related portion of the Adjusted Standardized Amount (ASA) shall continue to equal 69.6 percent. For wage index values less than or equal to 1.0 the labor related portion of the ASA shall continue to equal 62 percent.

D. Hospital Market Basket

TRICARE will update the adjusted standardized amounts according to the final updated hospital market basket used for the Medicare PPS for all hospitals subject to the TRICARE DRG-based payment system according to CMS' August 17, 2015, final rule. For FY 2016, the market basket is 2.4 percent. Note: Medicare's FY 2016 market basket index adjusts according

to hospitals' compliance with quality data and electronic health record meaningful use submissions. These adjustments do not apply to the TRICARE Program.

E. Outlier Payments

Since TRICARE does not include capital payments in our DRG-based payments (TRICARE reimburses hospitals for their capital costs as reported annually to the contractor on a pass through basis), we will use the fixed loss cost outlier threshold calculated by CMS for paying cost outliers in the absence of capital prospective payments. For FY 2016, the TRICARE fixed loss cost outlier threshold is based on the sum of the applicable DRG-based payment rate plus any amounts payable for Indirect Medical Education (IDME) plus a fixed dollar amount. Thus, for FY 2016, in order for a case to qualify for cost outlier payments, the costs must exceed the TRICARE DRG base payment rate (wage adjusted) for the DRG plus the IDME payment (if applicable) plus \$20,758 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

F. National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs

The FY 2016 TRICARE National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs (NOSCASTC) used in calculating the cost outlier threshold is 0.921. TRICARE uses the same methodology as CMS for calculating the NOSCASTC; however, the variables are different because TRICARE uses national cost-to-charge ratios while CMS uses hospital specific cost-to-charge ratios.

G. Indirect Medical Education (IDME) Adjustment

Passage of the Medical Modernization Act of 2003 modified the formula multipliers to be used in the calculation of IDME adjustment factor. Since the IDME formula used by TRICARE does not include disproportionate share hospitals (DSHs), the variables in the formula are

different than Medicare's, however; the percentage reductions that will be applied to Medicare's formula will also be applied to the TRICARE IDME formula. The multiplier for the IDME adjustment factor for TRICARE for FY 2016 is 1.02.

H. Cost to Charge Ratio

TRICARE uses a national Medicare cost-to-charge ratio (CCR). For FY 2016, the Medicare CCR used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system for acute care hospitals and neonates will be 0.2631. This is based on a weighted average of the hospital-specific Medicare CCRs (weighted by the number of Medicare discharges) after excluding hospitals not subject to the TRICARE DRG system (Sole Community Hospitals, Indian Health Service hospitals, and hospitals in Maryland). The Medicare CCR is used to calculate cost outlier payments, except for children's hospitals. The Medicare CCR has been increased by a factor of 1.0065 to include an additional allowance for bad debt. The 1.0065 factor reflects the provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. For children's hospital cost outliers, the CCR used is 0.2840.

I. Pricing of Claims

The final rule published on May 21, 2014 (79 FR 29085) set forth all final claims with discharge dates of October 1, 2014, or later and reimbursed under the TRICARE DRG-Based payment system, are to be priced using the rules, weights, and rates in effect as of the date of discharge. Prior to this, all final claims were priced using the rules, weights, and rates in effect as of the date of admission.

J. Updated Rates and Weights

The updated rates and weights are accessible through the Internet at <http://www.health.mil/rates>. The implementing regulations for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system are in 32 CFR part 199.

Dated: December 22, 2015.

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Department of Defense.

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